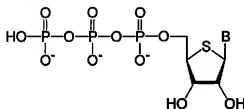


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

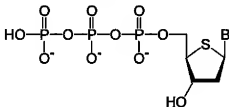
1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



(I)

[~~wherein~~ wherein B is a nucleobase selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, cytosine, ~~uracil~~ and ~~hypoxanthine~~] hypoxanthine.

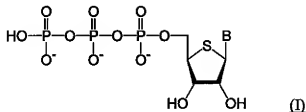
2. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula II:



(II)

[~~wherein B~~ wherein B is a nucleobase selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, cytosine, ~~thymine~~, ~~uracil~~ and ~~hypoxanthine~~] hypoxanthine.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for synthesizing a compound of formula I:



[~~wherein~~ wherein B is a nucleobase selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, cytosine, ~~uracil~~ and ~~hypoxanthine~~] hypoxanthine,

said method comprising reacting a compound of formula III:



[~~wherein~~ wherein B is a nucleobase selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, cytosine, ~~uracil~~ and ~~hypoxanthine~~, and each of R₂ and R₃ is, independently a protecting group of a hydroxyl group] group

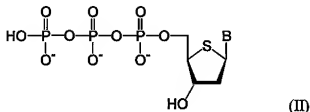
with a compound of formula IV:



reacting the resulting intermediate with pyrophosphoric acid; and

conducting iodo-oxidation, hydrolysis and deprotection to obtain the compound of formula I.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for synthesizing a compound of formula II:



[~~wherein~~ wherein B is a nucleobase selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, cytosine, ~~thymine, uracil~~ and hypoxanthine] hypoxanthine,

said method comprising reacting a compound of formula V:



[~~wherein~~ wherein B is a nucleobase selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, cytosine, ~~thymine, uracil~~ and hypoxanthine, and R₂ is a protecting group of a hydroxyl ~~group~~] group

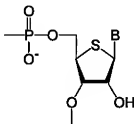
with a compound of formula IV:



reacting the resulting intermediate with pyrophosphoric acid; and

conducting iodo-oxidation, hydrolysis and deprotection to obtain the compound of formula II.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an oligonucleotide containing at least one nucleoside unit of formula VI:

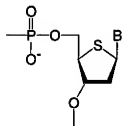


(VI)

[~~wherein~~ wherein B is a nucleobase selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, cytosine, ~~uracil~~ and ~~hypoxanthine~~] hypoxanthine,

comprising: conducting RNA chain elongation reaction with RNA synthetase in the presence of the compound of claim 1 ~~or the compound produced by the method according to claim 3.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an oligonucleotide containing at least one nucleotide unit of formula VII:



(VII)

[~~wherein~~ wherein B is a nucleobase selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine, ~~uracil~~ and ~~hypoxanthine~~] hypoxanthine,

comprising: conducting DNA chain elongation reaction with DNA synthetase in the presence of the compound of claim 2 ~~or the compound produced by the method according to claim 4.~~